

CARLSBAD AVENUES

Let's talk about TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

Let's face it: traffic is a top issue in Carlsbad, as it is in cities across the nation. In a telephone survey conducted in 2003, Carlsbad residents gave high marks to overall road conditions within the city, but only 44% of respondents rated traffic circulation as good or excellent.

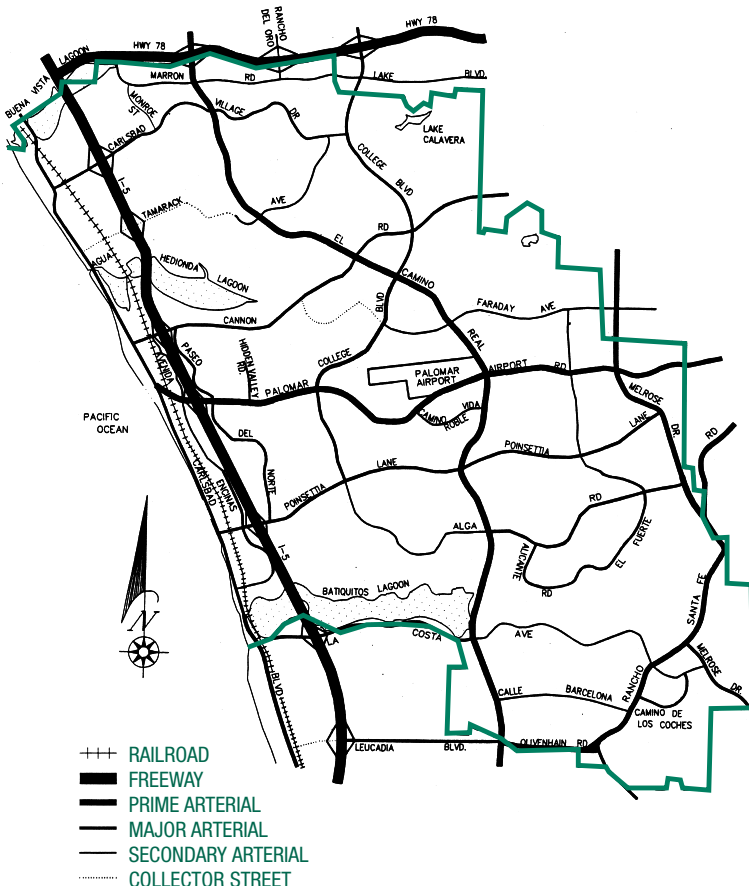
Fortunately, in a few years many circulation hassles in Carlsbad may be remedied by the completion of major roads and road improvements. No matter what we do to address roads within Carlsbad, we cannot change regional impacts.

In a 2003 survey, 35.4% of Carlsbad residents said traffic was their biggest concern.

The Circulation Element of the City of Carlsbad's General Plan "is a comprehensive plan for the circulation of people, goods, energy, water, sewage, storm waters, communications and services. The primary focus ... is to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.... [The Element] also identifies how transportation systems will link with surrounding jurisdictions and be coordinated with regional transportation plans."

This map shows the circulation plan at completion

The City of Carlsbad is doing everything it can in terms of constructing roads, improving roads and optimizing circulation to meet the needs of the present and future population. The City is in a mini road building "boom," with several major arterials under construction.



Problems and possibilities

As part of the Carlsbad General Plan, adopted initially in 1953 and amended most recently in 1994, the Circulation Element – including road construction and improvements – must operate within specific parameters. The voter-approved Growth Management Plan mandates that new development must pay for roads needed to serve the traffic caused by new homes and businesses.

Road construction is also dependent upon financing and the review/approval of multiple environmental agencies.

For decades, the City of Carlsbad has worked with adjacent cities to ensure linkage of regional roads

Over the last ten years, Carlsbad has spent approximately \$60 million to complete such roadway improvements as the freeway interchanges on I-5 at La Costa Avenue, Poinsettia Lane, Palomar Airport Road and Cannon Road; the widening of Palomar Airport Road from I-5 to San Marcos and Vista; the widening of La Costa Avenue from I-5 to El Camino Real; the realignment/widening of Olivenhain Road; and the completion of Cannon Road from I-5 to College Boulevard and Faraday Avenue to the business park. By virtue of location, many Carlsbad roadways are of regional benefit to citizens of other communities and as such will be utilized to reach jobs, shopping and entertainment venues.

The construction/completion/opening of certain roadways often necessitates a delicate balance

Safety and capacity must be weighed against preferences and convenience. For example, if road "A" has not yet been improved to the necessary width and capacity, the construction/opening of road "B" could result in the overburdening of road "A" and the impaired safety of motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists on road "A." This scenario explains the timing of the opening of the College Boulevard extension to/from Oceanside along with its effect on Tamarack Avenue and El Camino Real.

Informed Involvement Is Our Goal.

AVENUES publications are created by the City of Carlsbad to communicate why things are the way they are today ... and to explain how you can help direct their progress in the future.



Five years down the road ... the forecast is clear

It may sound flippant to tell fellow motorists that City of Carlsbad employees "feel your pain," but since most of these employees work in the busy business park area, they experience firsthand the tensions of traveling into and about the area.

The bad news is that until most major regional roads are built, many crowded routes such as Palomar Airport Road and Rancho Santa Fe Road will continue to bear the brunt of heavy peak hour traffic. The good news is that circulation problems should smooth out during the next few years as major road arterials are completed.

Major improvements on Rancho Santa Fe Road began in early 2002. A three-year, \$37.2 million federally and developer impact fee-funded project will realign a two-mile section, widen the roadway from two to four lanes and add an additional two lanes by the Villages of La Costa, for a total of three lanes in each direction.

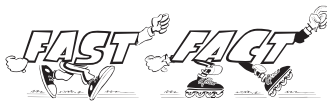
Barring environmental delays, most of the "missing links" on other roads will be in place within three to five years, with construction at or nearing completion. These missing links include College Boulevard from Cannon Road to El Camino Real, Faraday Avenue from Orion Way to Vista, and Melrose Drive from Palomar Airport Road to the northern city limits.

Currently, the Palomar Airport Road/El Camino Real intersection approaches capacity. Connecting Melrose Drive to Vista now would significantly increase traffic at this intersection and potentially create excessive congestion, leading to safety issues. Once Faraday Avenue is completed, it will provide another outlet, relieving the impact of the Melrose Drive connection and enabling construction to occur.

Patience is not only a virtue; it is a necessity

Until the Circulation Element reaches its construction finale, the City of Carlsbad earnestly requests and sincerely appreciates the patience of everyone who lives, works and plays here.

Although every effort is made to minimize inconvenience, motorists should remember that crews are working close to heavy traffic areas. Please follow all directional and speed limit signs, and try to allow a little extra time for your commute.



According to recent statistics, about 70% of the people who live in Carlsbad work elsewhere, and about 70% of the people who work in Carlsbad live elsewhere.

Become part of the solution

Just as people can be part of the traffic problem, people can be part of the solution. Here are some circulation alternatives that can help "drive" the overall traffic problem down.



Take the bus

North County Transit District (NCTD) is in the process of adding new routes and improving bus scheduling and timing ratios. Call 967-2828 or visit www.gonctd.com.



Ride the Coaster

Regular Coaster commuters say they have made a new circle of friends while saving time and gas during their daily commutes. NCTD recently added convenient midday trains.

Connections with buses and the trolley ensure easy travel throughout the county. Call (800) 266-6883 or visit www.sdcommute.com.



Dive into the RideLink pool

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) offers a free RideLink service that connects commuters with vanpools. People who live in the same community and work in the same business area can share a ride to and from work. Vanpoolers confirm the program leads to a less stressful commute as well as access to the high occupancy lane on the freeway. Call (619) 237-POOL (7665) or visit www.ridelink.org.



Rideshare at a Park & Ride

Dozens of safe, convenient and free Park & Ride lots are provided by Caltrans throughout San Diego County. Carlsbad northerners will find the lot at I-5/Highway 78 handy, while southerners may prefer the lot at I-5/La Costa Avenue. Some lots offer bike lockers, and many are served by bus or trolley service. Call (800)-COMMUTE (266-6883) or visit www.sandag.org.



Bike it

Bike lanes criss-cross the city and connect up and down the scenic coast as well as inland. In the future, a rail trail system will offer an exclusive path for non-motorized vehicles along the railroad right-of-way. For now, bicyclists can pedal as short or long a distance as they wish, placing their bike on the bus, train, trolley or parking at a Park & Ride lot.

They're at your service

A wealth of on-site services are available to employees of Palomar Airport Road corridor companies. You can get your car washed or tuned up, and enjoy delivery of everything from prescription medicines and floral arrangements to gourmet lunches and designer cookies, all from the tranquility of your office. To learn more about these and other "Services While You Work," including dry cleaning and photo pickup/delivery, call the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce at 931-8400 or email your inquiry to chamber@carlsbad.org.

Further Information and Involvement

If you would like more up-to-date information on circulation and related topics, we invite you to:

- Contact Deputy City Engineer Bob Johnson at 602-2752.
- Review a copy of the Circulation Element of the General Plan at the Faraday Center, or purchase a copy for \$3.
- Visit the City's website at www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

If you would like to observe and/or participate in the planning process, we invite you to:

- Attend a Planning Commission meeting, generally held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 6 pm in the Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive.
- Learn about applying for membership on the Planning Commission or other volunteer advisory boards and commissions by calling the City Clerk at 434-2808.
- Attend a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, generally held on Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive.
- Call 434-2820 to confirm above dates and times and to get more information on how you can help direct the avenues of your City's policies and programs.

